



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION  
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN  
COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES  
PÊCHES POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE**



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**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**Third session of the Compliance Committee**

**Tunis, Tunisia, 23-27 March 2009**

**Management of the list of vessels authorized to operate  
in the GFCM area**

### Introduction

1. This document reports on the progress made by the Secretariat in establishing and maintaining the record of fishing vessels authorized to operate in the GFCM Convention Area in line with Recommendation GFCM/2005/2. It also describes the state of affairs with respect to data received from Contracting Parties and presents summary fleet statistics.

### Authorized Vessels List Database

2. During the intersessional period, the Secretariat maintained a database on vessels over 15 meters authorized to operate in the GFCM area. It currently<sup>1</sup> includes data of a total of 10 160 vessels from nineteen countries<sup>2</sup>. The data has been published on the GFCM website<sup>3</sup> through a newly-developed web-based application, the AVL Browser (beta), available to all users. Special authorization, through the use of a username and password, has been granted to the Heads of Delegation and control authorities (or equivalent) of each Contracting Party to access confidential data and classified reports.

3. The data imported into the database are those which have passed the basic validation routines (codification standards, value ranges) incorporated in the data communication tool (available on the GFCM website<sup>4</sup>) which has been developed to ensure standard and efficient reporting procedures. The quality of data received from reporting countries varies and table 1 shows the percentage coverage of data fields with validated data.

	<b>FIELDS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF VESSELS</b>	<b>COVERAGE</b>
1	Flag	10160	100.00%
2	Vessel name	10157	99.97%

<sup>1</sup> As at 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009

<sup>2</sup> Not including Monaco which reported that it does not have any registered vessels over 15m.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.gfcm.org/gfcm/topic/17103>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.gfcm.org/gfcm/topic/16163>

	FIELDS	NUMBER OF VESSELS	COVERAGE
3	Vessel Register Number	9782	96.28%
4	Previous name	29	0.29%
5	Previous flag	0	0.00%
6	Details of deletion	0	0.00%
7	IRCS	439	4.32%
8	Vessel type	8247	81.17%
9	LOA	10152	99.92%
10	GRT	8867	87.27%
11	GT	6825	67.18%
12	Authorization: issuing date	7577	74.58%
13	Authorization: expiring date	7577	74.58%
14	Fishing gear	7626	75.06%
15	Owner name	8515	83.81%
16	Owner address	8004	78.78%
17	Operator name	7626	75.06%
18	Operator address	7624	75.04%

Table 1. Percentage coverage of data fields with validated data.

4. The current records show that Italy (2 215 vessels; 21.81%), Egypt (1 579 vessels; 15.55%) and Turkey (1 255 vessels; 12.36%) are the three countries having the largest fleet above 15m in length, whilst Slovenia (8), Lebanon (8) and Cyprus (15) have the smallest fleets in this length class. Figure 1 gives the number and percentage distribution of vessels by country. About 45% of the fleet in the record form part of the 18 – 24 m length class, with only 24.34% of the fleet being over 24m in length overall (see figure 2).

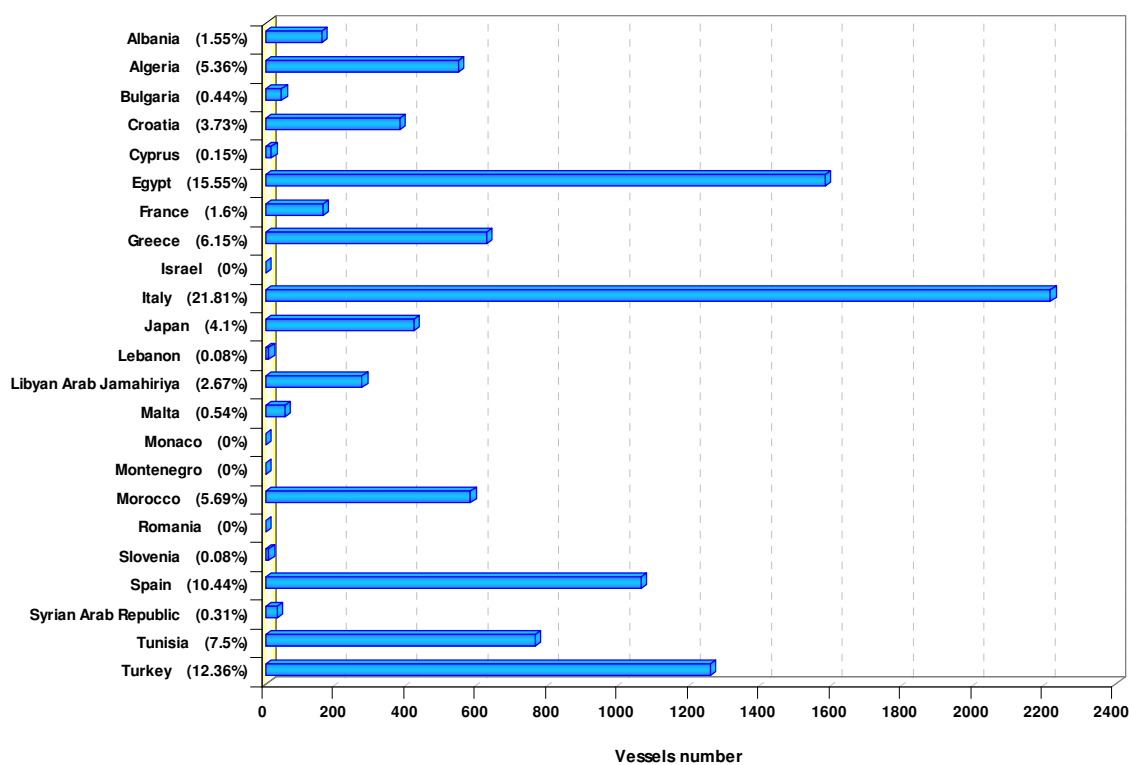


Figure 1. Number and percentage distribution of vessels in the Authorized Vessels List by country (total of 10160 vessels).

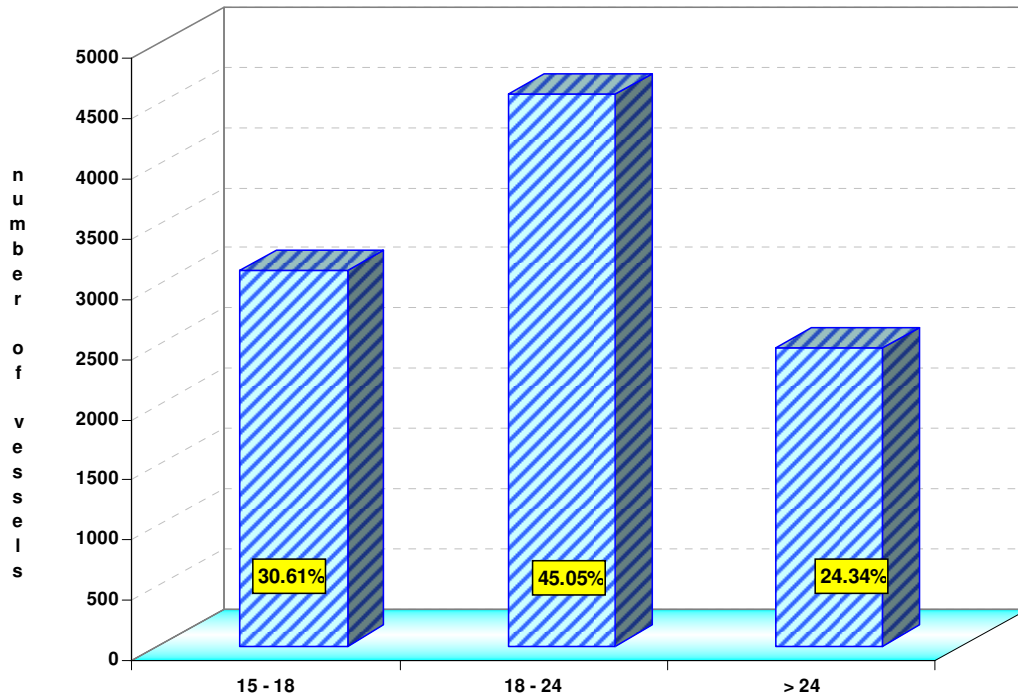


Figure 2. Length distribution of the vessels in the Authorized Vessels List (data of 10 152 vessels – 99.92% of fleet).

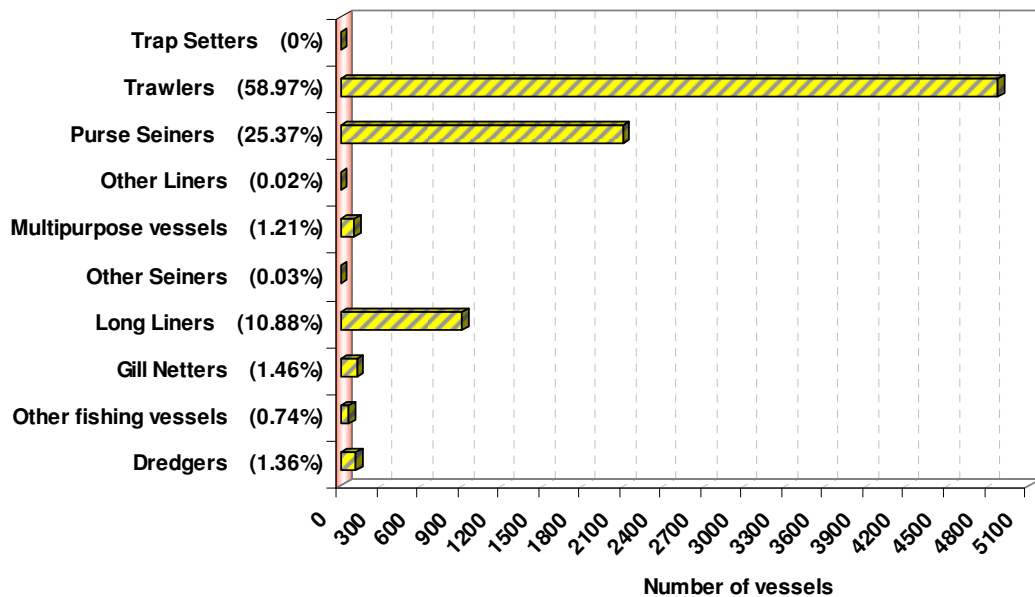


Figure 3. Distribution of vessels in the Authorized Vessels List by vessel type (data of 8247 vessels – 81.17% of fleet).

5. The fleet is largely dominated by trawlers (59%) and purse seiners (25.37%) and the most common fishing gears deployed by these vessel types are bottom otter trawls and purse seines with purse lines respectively. Boat dredges, longlines and midwater otter trawls are also significantly represented (each above 14%) in the list of registered main gears, together with passive and other traditional gears albeit in smaller quantities. Figures 3 and figure 4 give the distribution of the fleet by vessel type and the percentage distribution of registered main gears respectively.

## Fleet by Registered Main Fishing Gear

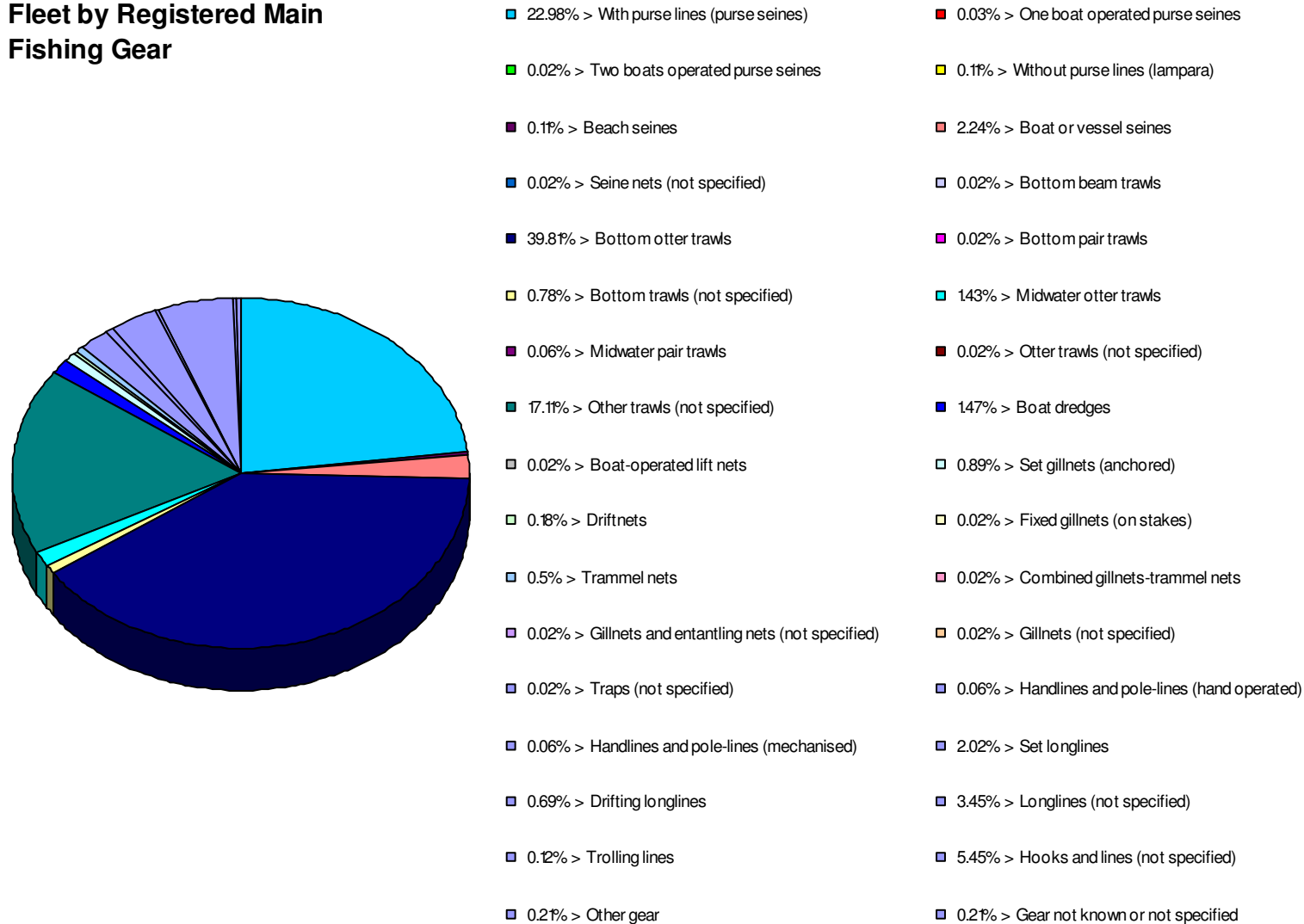


Figure 4. Percentage distribution of registered main gears (data of 7626 vessels – 75.06% of fleet).

6. The authorized fishing period remains unreported or not updated by several countries, with the result that over 55% of the vessels in the database have an authorized fishing period which is either expired or missing. Figure 5 gives the number and percentage of vessels with a valid, expired or not specified period.

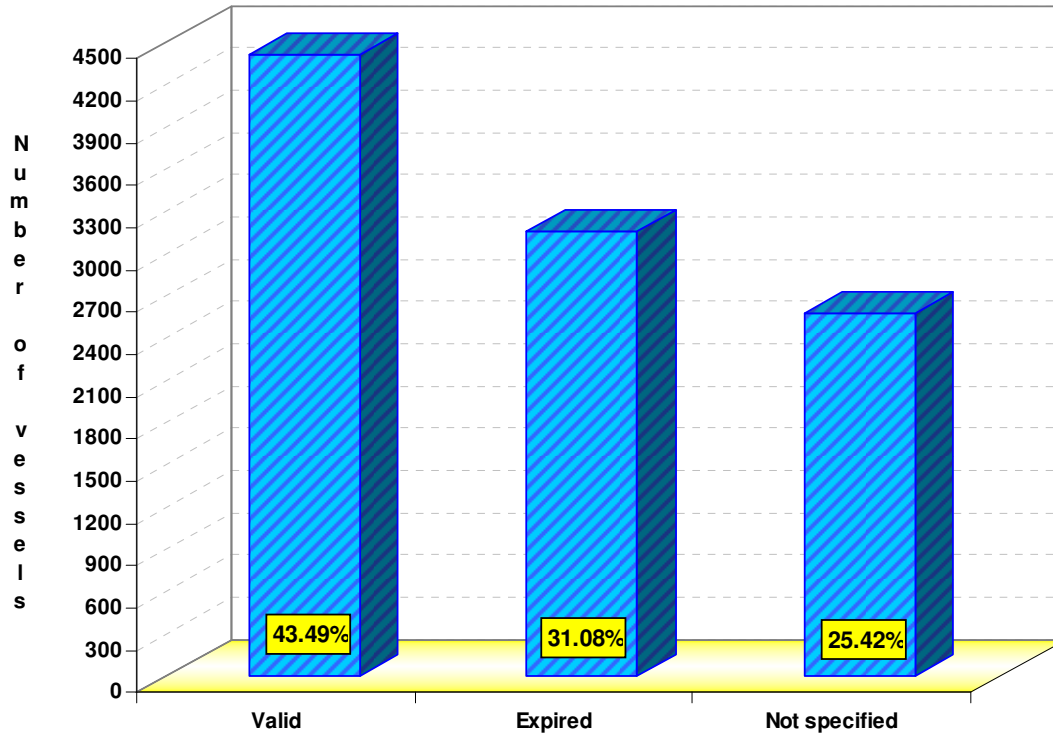


Figure 5. Status of authorized fishing period.

7. In line with the guidance provided by the CoC during its Second Session, vessels for which all data are available, including a valid authorized fishing period, are distinguished from other vessels in the AVL database. In fact, the AVL browser provides a facility to select only those vessels with a valid authorized fishing period and additionally classifies vessels as “not authorized” when compulsory data are missing.

#### **Suggested action by the Committee**

8. The Committee may wish to invite Contracting Parties to take necessary action to update their Authorized Vessels List (see Appendix I for the status of data transmission) as appropriate and in a timely manner, in line with Article 3 of Recommendation GFCM/2005/2, using the available Electronic Data Communication Tool<sup>5</sup>. The Contracting Parties should also be invited to consult their National Status Report on the AVL Browser in order to monitor the completeness and quality of their data.

9. Finally, the attention of the Committee is drawn to Article 1 of the above-mentioned Recommendation which states that *"vessels larger than 15 meters in length overall not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land species covered by the Commission"*.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.gfcm.org/gfcm/topic/16163>

## APPENDIX 1

## STATUS OF DATA SUBMISSIONS BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

COUNTRY	DATE OF COMMUNICATION	
	MOST RECENT FULL LIST	AMENDMENTS
Albania	10/09/2008	23/11/2008
Algeria	27/01/2008	
Bulgaria	22/10/2008	27/10/2008
Croatia	22/10/2007	
Cyprus	22/10/2008	
Egypt	08/04/2008	
France	22/10/2008	
Greece	22/10/2008	
Italy	22/10/2008	
Japan	12/02/2008	
Lebanon	27/08/2007	26/05/2008
Libya	16/01/2007	
Malta	22/10/2008	
Morocco	07/01/2008	
Slovenia	22/10/2008	
Spain	22/10/2008	
Syria	02/11/2008	
Tunisia	22/07/2008	
Turkey	15/07/2008	